THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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FIRE MATTERS.

FIREMEN SUBMIT THEIR GRIEVANCES TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Better Houses and Better Equipment Needed—Immediate Action on the Part of the Council Demanded—Councilmen Concede Willingness to Act Promptly and Arrangements are Made for an Early Conference.

Fire department matters were the chief topic at the Town Council meeting Monday night. There was a large attendance of firemen and Councilman Farrand, Chairman of the Fire Committee, presided in the absence of Chairman of the Council George Peterson, who was prevented by illness from being present.

When Mr. Farrand made the usual announcement that the Council was ready to hear any citizen present who had any matter to bring to the attention of the Council, former Chief of the Fire Department T. Howell Johnson arose and stated that a meeting of the members of the department was held in Raab's Hall Friday evening, the 15th inst., for the purpose of discussing matters concerning the department. Resolutions were adopted which he requested that the Town Clerk be permitted to read to the Council. The resolutions were as follows:

"Whereas, The several fire companies of the town are not provided, and have not been for a long period, with proper or even fit and decent quarters; and

"Whereas, This deplorable condition of the department has been called to the attention of the Council repeatedly; and

"Whereas, The insufficient quarters of the department seriously and dangerously impede its speed and efficiency in case of fire, and, if allowed to continue much longer, might be the occasion of heavy losses of property, and even of life, by fire; therefore be it

"Resolved, Once more to direct the attention of the Council to the deplorable state of the several quarters of the department, and to urge upon it the necessity of immediate and practical action thereon;

"Resolved, That it is now almost impossible for the members of the department to adequately and speedily perform their duties, because their buildings are cold, the extinguishers and the hose pipes become frozen, and there are no facilities to thaw them out;

"Resolved, That the three companies—Essex, Phoenix and Active—should be properly housed without further delay, and that the quarters provided for the Essex and Phoenix companies should be located as near the Centre of the town as possible;

"Resolved, That we once more urge upon the Council the paramount necessity of taking suitable action without further delay.

"Herman Eichorn, Frank N. Unangst, Wm. B. Douglass, Augustus F. Olsen, J. Adolph Weimar and Walter O'Neil, committee."

At the conclusion of the reading of the resolutions the former Chief addressed the Council at considerable length on the causes that had moved the firemen in the adoption of the declarations which the Council had just heard. He said in part: "Twenty years ago two disastrous fires here in town caused considerable anxiety over the lack of fire protection and some citizens got together and formed a fire organization, from which developed Essex Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. The formation of this, the first fire company, was followed by the introduction of a public water supply, which in turn was followed by the formation of hose companies, namely, Phoenix No. 1, Active No. 2 and Excelsior No. 3, and these four companies constitute the volunteer fire department that exists today in this town, and the members of which have given their time and energy in the protection of life and property from destruction by fire. In times past," Mr. Johnson said, "the firemen had never yet gone before the people with a request for anything that tended to facilitate the efficiency of the department but what the people said get it." He cited the introduction of the fire alarm system as an instance of the uniform policy of liberality on the part of the people toward the firemen.

Mr. Johnson next spoke of the decadence that had gone on for the past ten years in the condition of the fire-houses and portrayed in particular the condition of Essex truck-house, the homeless state of Phoenix Hose Company and the dilapidated and dangerous structure occupied by Active Hose Company. Notwithstanding the deterioration in the matter of housing and equipment, Mr. Johnson maintained that the personnel of the department was of the same high order that it was in its early days and the men had responded to alarms of fire and had labored faithfully in the saving of life and property, and had discharged their duty without any other recompense save that of knowl-

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Town Council.

At the meeting of the Town Council on Monday night Councilman Conlan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, recommended that the Town Treasurer be authorized to retire two of the short term sewer bonds of $1,000 each, and also to pay the accrued interest on outstanding sewer bonds.

The Essex Cross Railway Company's application for a franchise was laid over as usual for future consideration.

Councilman Moore of the Franchise Committee reported that he had been unable to see the Public Service Corporation officials about the question of school tickets, but he had examined the franchise ordinance passed by the Council and found that the first ordinance adopted had nothing in its provisions about school tickets, but section 17 of the ordinance of 1895 provided that children between five and sixteen years of age attending school would only be required to pay a three-cent fare to and from school. Mr. Moore said he would have a personal interview with the trolley company officials about the matter.

Town Clerk Johnson read a letter from Phœnix Hose Company to the Council, in which it was stated that the company would hold no more business meetings until headquarters were provided for it.

Edward F. O'Neil's resignation as an active member of Active Hose Company No. 2 was received and accepted by the Council.

Joseph Wolfe's election as an active member of Active Hose Company No. 2 was approved by the Council.

Illustrated Lecture on Butterflies.

On January 26, at 8 P. M., in the assembly room of the Glen Ridge School, Dr. Straubenmuller of New York city, a specialist in nature work, will give his lecture on butterflies illustrated by the stereopticon. In preparation for the lecture a most interesting professional collection of butterflies will be on view on the afternoon of the same day from 3 to 5 o'clock at the Glen Ridge School. These butterflies have been collected from all parts of the world. They are arranged in a most pleasing and artistic manner in a new form of mount, which can be used in perfection even by small children. No pins are required, and the result is an ornament to the library rather than an object to be endured because it pleases the child to have it in evidence. This happy invention stimulates the child's love of nature, and opens up a new avenue of pleasure and diversion. There will be some one in attendance during the afternoon to answer questions. It is hoped that parents will feel interested to come with their children.

These entertainments are given by the Town Improvement Association of Glen Ridge, under the auspices of the National Plant and Flower Fund Guild, and are open to the public with the compliments of the Glen Ridge School. There is no charge for admission. All are invited.

Unpaid Personal Taxes.

The Finance Committee of the Town Council and the Tax Collector are in conference for the purpose of deciding on methods of enforcing the payment of unpaid personal taxes.

The new tax law that went into effect on December 20 is very emphatic as to the collection of personal taxes, and makes it incumbent upon the Tax Collector to take vigorous and strenuous measures for the collection of personal taxes. The Finance Committee can order the Collector to advertise the delinquents for personal taxes, or a constable can be detailed to personally visit the delinquents and take them into custody if they fail to pay. The town officials heretofore have not resorted to extreme measures in the enforcement of the collection of unpaid personal taxes, but under the new law there is now no alternative but to secure the tax or inforce the penalty. The members of the Finance Committee and the Collector all realize that they are confronted with a serious problem, and that necessities of the case are such that there is no alternative but to strictly adhere to the law and proceed in accordance with its directions.

Pilgrims to Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, the Holy City, chief city of that land which furnishes every Sunday-school in the world continual subject for study, will witness a scene next April like to none that has ever occurred in the historic little city, and one which will make ever memorable the early years of the 20th century.

A thousand Sunday-school superintendents, teachers, scholars, and workers have their eyes turned toward Jerusalem, and a pilgrimage is planned that is unusual even in these days of personally conducted parties to all corners of the earth.

PROTECT your securities and valuable papers against FIRE and BURGLARS by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vaults of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at $4.00 per year and upwards.—*Adv.*

FAVOR DODD'S HALL.

Firemen Ask the Fire Committee to Purchase that Building—Will Make Headquarters for Essex Truck Company and Phœnix Hose Company—The Fire Committee Now Anticipates a Speedy Completion of Its Fire-House Project.

The Fire Committee of the Town Council and the Firemen's Advisory Committee held a conference in the Town Council rooms Tuesday night. There was a large attendance of firemen present. The question of the location of the proposed fire-houses was the chief topic of discussion.

The matter of a site for the new building for Active Hose Company No. 2 was easily disposed of, as there appeared to be no objection to the Orange street site selected by the Fire Committee. When it came to the matter of fixing a location for Essex Truck Company and Phœnix Hose Company a serious division of opinion among the members of those two companies was apparent. It was claimed that a majority of the members of the two companies favored the purchase of the R. N. Dodd building on Glenwood avenue. Opposed to those who favored the Dodd site were some who thought and desired that the fire-house should be erected on Bloomfield avenue north of the Centre. At the request of the Fire Committee one of the Advisory Committee was delegated to find out if a site could be secured on Bloomfield avenue and what it would cost.

The majority sentiment appears to be in favor of the R. N. Dodd building, as it is claimed that it can be used by the town for several other purposes as well as for fire department headquarters. The town now pays rent for storage room for the road and sewer department machinery and tools, and that could be saved by keeping them in the basement of the Dodd building.

The town is now launching out into the water business, and a large storeroom will be required by the superintendent of the water department for the storage of tools and the large stock of water fixtures that will have to be kept in supply.

While there is no apparent difference of opinion as to the site selected for Active Hose Company's new house there is a dissatisfaction with the character of the building that it is proposed to erect. The plans, it is said, call for a two-story brick building, seventeen feet front and thirty feet deep. That is a small structure, and, it is claimed, will not provide sufficient room for the proper handling of the fire apparatus. The members of the company are going to ask for a change in the plans.

The main trouble that the Fire Committee will have to contend with will be the combination building for the Truck Company and the Phœnix Hose Company.

At a joint meeting of the members of Essex Truck Company and Phœnix Hose Company No. 1, held Thursday night, at which the Fire Committee's request that the members of both companies agree upon a site for a combination house for the two companies, was the subject of discussion. Two sites for the proposed building were considered. One was a Bloomfield avenue site near Decker's stables, and the other was R. N. Dodd's building on Glenwood avenue. Spirited speeches were made by the advocates of the respective sites, but Dodd's Hall, by virtue of its association with public and political life in the Third Ward, most strongly appealed to the Third Ward firemen, and as they were in the majority at the meeting the vote that followed the discussion was a majority one in favor of the Dodd building.

Charles H. Johnson of Essex presided at the meeting.

Revival Meetings at Park M.E. Church

Rev. J. M. Buffum of Maine has been conducting revival services at the Park M. E. Church the past week. Though the weather has been very unfavorable the meetings have been fairly well attended, and much interest has been manifested. Mr. Buffum's preaching is instructive, interesting and suggestive. He also sings. The meetings will continue next week, each night at 7.45 o'clock and in the afternoons at 3.

Mr. Buffum will preach both morning and evening on Sunday. At 3 P. M. Sunday a children's meeting will be held, and at 4 P. M. a meeting for men only.

Pulpit Lectures.

The Rev. Elliott W. Brown will speak Sunday evening on "Modern Excavations in Buried Cities." This is the first of a series of evening lectures. The balance of the course is as follows: January 31, "Confucius and Confucianism;" February 7, "Brahmanism;" February 14, "Abraham Lincoln;" February 21, "George Washington;" February 28, "Buddha and Buddhism;" March 6, "Mohammed and Mohammedism;" March 13, "The Jews and Judaism;" March 29, "Christ and Christianity—The True Religion."

LOCAL POLITICS.

Politicians are Getting Together and Discussing the Spring Outlook—Will Municipal Ownership Figure in the Local Campaign?—The Personal Attitude of Present Councilmen Considered.

Anticipating that no legislative enactments will interfere with the holding of the annual spring elections here, local politicians are beginning to get together and local politics are being discussed with considerable animation.

Four members of the Council are to be elected in April if nothing intervenes to upset the regular course of events. The Councilmen whose terms expire are: George Peterson, Chairman of the Council, who is concluding one term in office; W. Douglas Moore, Councilman from the First Ward; James M. Walker of the Second Ward and James R. Conlan of the Third Ward.

The present Council has had the courage to act along sharply defined lines in matters of public policy. It has advocated in the face of strong opposition municipal ownership of the water plant and it has been successful in having its policy indorsed by a majority vote at a special election.

It has advocated and decided upon municipal ownership of all the buildings used for town purposes. The bringing about of these radical changes in the conducting of public affairs has unfortunately only succeeded in the closing months of the present administration's term of official jurisdiction.

The innovations made by the present Council in conducting of public affairs have given rise to an unusual interest in the local political campaign that will soon open.

Consistency apparently requires that the people who have so long been advocating the adoption of municipal ownership here should rally to the support of the men who have been successful in bringing it about. If such should be the case Mr. Walker is the only retiring member of the Council who has not earned the loyal and enthusiastic support of the advocates of municipal ownership; the other retiring members have and should be supported by the municipalists. It is realized though that there is no certainty that the enthusiastic supporters of municipal ownership constitute any thing like a majority of those who will vote at the spring election, and the united support of the municipalists will not insure an election judging from Tuesday's show of strength by that party.

Only about 20 per cent. of the registered vote was polled Tuesday and the majority vote only represented about 8 per cent. of the total voting strength of the town. The spring election invariably brings out between 55 and 65 per cent. of the registered vote. The problem that now confronts the local politicians is what will be the verdict of the 40 per cent. of the voters who did vote at the special election as to the new policy that the present Town Council is inaugurating. Will they oppose or disapprove it? If it is in accord with popular sentiment there is not likely to be any material change in the personnel of the Council. If the people are dissatisfied with the new order of things the men who have brought them about will have little chance of re-election. Notwithstanding the policy may stand and be carried out by other men and its wisdom or inadvisability be trusted to time to prove. But the question of public policy is not the only circumstance that may effect changes in the Council. Some of the present members will have a personal voice in that matter and may absolutely refuse a re-nomination for the position.

There is not much doubt but what some of the members of the Council will soon make their attitude known, and in anticipation of a positive declination to again be a canidate attention is being turned toward a well-known resident of the Second District of the First Ward as a candidate for an important town office.

Basket-Ball.

The Westminster Cadet Corps basket-ball team defeated the Promo Five Friday evening, the 15th inst., at Recreation Hall, by the score of 15 to 2. The team work of the cadets was largely accountable for their victory. The line-up:

W. C. C.		Promos
Stone	right forward	Cook
Moore	left forward	Hogan
Farrand	centre	Schneider
Ackerman	right guard	Ferguson
Adams, Tower	left guard	Harrison

Field goals—Farrand 2, Stone 2, Cook 1, Moore 1, Ackerman 1, Adams 1. Goals from fouls—Moore 1.

An Exciting Race.

E. F. O'Neil's horse, Monopole, and a Newark horse, "Billy D," afforded a number of spectators the pleasure of witnessing one of the most exciting races ever seen on Central avenue, Thursday afternoon. Each horse won a heat, and an accident to Monopole in the third heat caused the horse to be drawn up.

Death of C. N. Bovee.

C. N. Bovee, a former well-known resident of of this town, who lived here in 1880 and 1890, died Monday at the Philadelphia home of Richard Morris Popham, his son-in-law. Mr. Bovee was born in New York on February 22, 1820. He received his early education in private schools, and latter in the school established by the author of Brown's Grammar. He then studied law and was admitted to the bar in the year 1843. One of his earliest law partners was Clarkson N. Potter, and later Wm. H. Bromley, and still later James Richard, the recent partner of the firm of Coudert Brothers.

Mr. Bovee had strong literary tastes, and was the friend and contemporary of Washington Irving, Henry W. Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Tuckerman, and all of the brilliant men who composed at that time the Saturday Evening Club of Boston, at whose gatherings Mr. Bovee was a frequent guest. Oliver Wendell Holmes in a letter to Mr. Bovee dated October 14, 1882, said:

"I went back with you to the time when those dear and illustrous friends of ours were gathered around the table at Parker's, for that was our place of meeting. I could hardly believe so many years were gone since you were our visitor, but when I look at the empty seats or the new faces, it comes to me how lonely is my position at the old table, for we cannot make good the places of those we have lost, at least the young, no matter how brilliant or promising, seem crude and raw as we contrast them with our old refined comrades. By and by they in time will mellow and sweeten with years, but the men you saw formed a group not easy for nature to duplicate in a single locality and one generation."

Mr. Bovee was one of the founders of the long Island College Hospital of Brooklyn. He was also one of the charter members of the old Atheneum Club. As a literary man he was best known for his writing and publication in 1862 of a work entitled "Intuitions and Summaries of Thought," and prior to that his work entitled "Thoughts, Feelings and Fancies."

Mr. Bovee is survived by his widow, Mary M. Bovee, and five children, C. N. Bovee, Jr., Belle Bovee, Kate Bovee, Eelanor Bovee and Mrs. Richard Morris Popham.

Hitting East Jersey.

Senator Wood McKee of Passaic County, introduced a bill in the State Senate on Tuesday, entitled "An act to prevent the illegal delivery of fresh water from rivers and streams and other bodies of fresh water in this State."

In support of the bill it is claimed that the East Jersey Water Company has for years been diverting the waters of the Passaic River at will, and that a continuance of such diversion, unmolested for twenty years would give the company a permanent right to the water by prescription under the common law. The use of the water has now continued for nearly twenty years, and the McKee bill is intended to prevent this acquisition of permanent right to these waters, by making it illegal for the company to continue. One section of the bill provides that no person or corporation shall obtain a title by prescription.

The bill was sent to the committee on corporations, and it is expected that there will be a big fight by the East Jersey people before it gets out.

Board of Health.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Health Thursday night, Inspector Gilbert submitted the following official analysis of the condition of the water supplied to the people by the Orange Water Company:

Appearance—clear, no sediment.	
Color—2	
Odor—none.	
Parts per 1,000,000.	
Total solids,	52.00
Loss on ignition,	14.00
Fixed,	38.00
Chlorine,	1.40
Nitrogen in nitrites and nitrates,	.256
Free ammonia,	.016
Albuminoid ammonia,	.060
Nitrites,	none

This samples of water shows that the condition of the town water is excellent. The chlorides are low, nitrites absent and the organic matter very low as indicated by the low figures for albuminoid and free ammonia.

Referendum Clause.

The members of the Legislative Committee of the Citizens' Association of Vailsburgh called on Assemblyman Edward D. Duffield in South Orange in regard to his intention to introduce a bill providing for the annexation of the borough to Newark. The Assembly said that he would probably present the bill next Monday night, but he assured the anti-annexationists that a referendum clause would be inserted. This is satisfactory to both sides.

The Watessing Free Public Library.

During the year 1903 the attendance at the reading room was larger than any previous year. The circulation of books during the same period was 5,721.

IN FAVOR OF.

THE PEOPLE VOTE TO PURCHASE THE ORANGE WATER COMPANY'S PLANT.

A Light Vote Polled—The Anti-Municipalists Carried Only One Ward—No Reason to Doubt the Legality of the Election.

Only 432 votes, a trifle over 20 per cent. of the registered vote of the town, were polled at the special election on Tuesday, January 19. A majority vote of 112 favored the purchase of the Orange Water Company's plant for $90,000. The vote in the several election districts was as follows:

First Ward—First District, 46 in favor of purchase; 40 against. Second district, 40 in favor; 12 against.

Second Ward—Thirty-four in favor; 79 against.

Third Ward—First District, 94 in favor; 16 against. Second District, 58 in favor; 13 against.

Total vote in the town in favor of purchase 272; against purchase 160; majority in favor of purchase 112.

It was a matter of much surprise on Tuesday night to learn that so little interest was manifested by the voters, when it is considered that the issue was one of such vital importance.

The advocates of municipal ownership, while disposed to feel elated over their victory, were not as jubilant as would have been the case if the vote had been a larger one and the victory a surer indication of public sentiment.

Both the municipalists and the anti-municipalists equally regret the public indifference manifested on election day. While ardent municipalists throughout the town used their personal influence to a certain extent in getting people inclined to their side of the cause out to vote, there was no strenuous effort made in any district, except possibly the Second District of the Third Ward, where Charles W. Powers succeeded in getting out a vote in favor of municipal ownership that would have been difficult to overcome.

The people opposed to municipal ownership, with the exception of one or two individuals in the Second Ward, made no effort at all to get out a vote.

Because some new residents of the Second Ward were deprived of the right to vote, as their names were not on the registry list, there has been considerable talk about the legality of the election. Several people who have given their views on that subject are of the opinion that there is no room for doubt at all, and that all the proceedings were strict in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes governing the purchase of a water plant by a town.

A member of the Town Council said yesterday that as soon as the Council was officially notified of the result of the election steps would be taken to advertise for bids for the necessary amount of bonds, and as soon as the bonds are sold the Council will proceed to take possession of the water plant.

The question of whether or not the people would vote to purchase the water plant was of such a doubtful character that the Council apparently made no advance proposition for action in case the recommendation to the people was adopted.

The municipalists got out a circular, which was spread about town, and reads as follows:

"The special election to be held next Tuesday will decide a simple question of control as it affects the public and private interests of the people of Bloomfield. The most important consideration involved is that of health, and it is imparative. Pure, wholesome water we must have. It should be the best supply obtainable. It should not come from the Passaic river, if possible to shut out that questionable source of supply. We should not bind ourselves by a contract that will force us to drink whatever is supplied by a company. A few of us who have 'money to burn' can buy pure drinking water by the gallon, but most of us are compelled to drink what comes through the pipes.

"Therefore, don't let any bugbear about 'bonds' frighten you from going to the polls and voting for your own welfare and interest. Now that you have the opportunity vote to buy the pipes and thus control the supply.

"To vote against the purchase and control of the water pipes would be to 'tie ourselves up' tighter than heretofore in the compulsory use of water (pretty sure to be from the Passaic), and at whatever rates and restrictions and penalties the company may reasonably or otherwise be disposed to enforce.

"Whereas, to vote in favor of purchasing the pipe system will give us control, in some degree at least, by making the town free to obtain a supply of pure and wholesome water from any available source.

"And finally, don't be deceived by any 'mush of concession,' admitting that town control may be 'advisable,' but 'not at the present time.' Or that we should 'lay new pipes' (at greater expense) instead of taking those we now have the opportunity of buying at a reasonable price. Now is the time to make sure of getting what we want in this town."

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